BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

Vol.6 No.1 October, 1942.

Officers and Executive for 1942-43

Honorary President	-	Hon. H.G. Perry
President	-	Miss Jeannette Sargent
Past President	-	Miss Ruth E. Cameron
Vice President	-	Miss Jean Porter
Secretary	-	Miss Jean Garratt
Treasurer	-	Miss Kathleen McKenzie

"May I send greetings of the Department of Education and myself personally to the officers and members of the British Columbia Library Association.

The Association will enrich the knowledge of every member by the interchange of information regarding the important work in which they are engaged.

I look forward to receiving the co-operation of the members with the Department of Education and the Library Commission of British Columbia.

H. G. Perry,
Minister of Education."

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the B.C.L.A. was held in New Westminster, May 18th, 1942. In her opening remarks, Miss Ruth E. Cameron touched on legislation which has placed libraries in B.C. under the Minister of Education; failure of B.C.L.A.'s suggestions regarding certification to pass the U.B.C.M. and the agreement which has been reached with the school librarians over the controversial sections of the Commission's survey - "Libraries in B.C. - 1940".

After the adoption of committee reports a letter was read from Elizabeth Morton, secretary of the Ontario Library Association asking that B.C.L.A. endorse certain resolutions passed by the O.L.A. at their annual conference. Consequently it was moved and carried that "Whereas public libraries are continually called upon to furnish authentic information on the uniforms, insignia, badges, etc., of the various branches of the Canadian Navy, Army, and Air Force, including the women's services; and whereas this information is not currently available in any one official published source; and whereas a government handbook would constitute the most authoritative source of information on the subject; resolved that the B.C.L.A. forwards to Ottawa a recommendation that such a handbook be published, "containing complete information on these subjects, and fully illustrated, if possible in colour." It was also moved and carried "that library boards generally encourage the various local organizations in their respective communities to preserve the records of their war activities and deposit them in public libraries for future historical use" and "that publishers of telephone books and city directories be respectfully urged to adopt the more convenient and logical arrangement of listing all names beginning with Mc and Mac in one continuous alphabetical arrangement and not separating them as at present.

A discussion of the Canadian Library Council followed. It was moved and carried "that the B.C.L.A. approved in principle the proposed constitution of the Canadian Library Council as submitted, but that certain features thereof do not commend themselves to the Association. It therefore resolves that a special committee of five be appointed by the present President to consider the constitution as drafted and to recommend such changes as may seem necessary in the light of enquiry and discussion and to report back to the Executive which is hereby empowered to take any action necessary to implement the Committee's findings."

The guest speaker at lunch was Professor George J. Spencer of the Dept. of Zoology, University of British Columbia. His talk on "The old new order" comparing the new order in Europe and the old order in the insect world was witty and stimulating.

The afternoon session was devoted to a discussion and acceptance of the Constitution of the B.C.L.A. as amended. Members of the Association were guests of the Library Board of New Westminster at tea in the Russell Hotel. The Conference closed with a motion that "this Association goes on record as pledging itself to do all within its power to further the war effort of the Dominion of Canada."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May I take this first opportunity of thanking the members of the British Columbia Library Association for the honour they conferred upon me at the conference in May. The clothes problem was a delicate one but evidently it did not win freedom from responsibility.

The new year of the British Columbia Library Association has started with difficulties and problems but with solutions also, made possible through co-operation and adjustment. We have lost our secretary, Mr. J.C. Lort, but Miss Jean Garratt has stepped in courageously and accepted this honour with its accompanying work. Miss Jean Porter, the vice-president, shared double duties during the period when there was no secretary and her efficient work is appreciated very much. The appointment of committees is pretty well in hand and the executive would like to thank those who have found it possible to act as conveners.

The formation of the Canadian Library Council has been proceeding over rough seas at times yet proving that the movement is a worthy barque. The resolution passed by our B.C.L.A. at its May conference left a slight opening for misunderstanding in the use of the phrase "in principle" qualifying its approval. However, Mr. Sanderson's telegram of August 25th, quoted below, has given us confidence in the ultimate success of this endeavour to establish a Canadian library organization.

"Confident all council fully understand situation. Legal opinion is Ottawa uncertain but likely to accept the phrase approves in principle. So everything may be satisfactory. But B.C. needed because no reply yet Alberta Manitoba. Regret delayed reply owing partly my absence partly obtaining legal opinion."

The recommendations of our special committee for certain changes in the constitution have not been completed but will receive final consideration as soon as all members of the executive have been able to examine them.

We ask the thoughtful support of all members of our association in this and all other undertakings of the coming year. Suggestions and criticisms will help keep our organization constructively active.

- Jeannette Sargent,
President, B.C.L.A.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

An executive meeting was held July 1st, 1942, in the Victoria Public Library. The Executive resolved that acting on the resolution passed at the annual conference that "this Association goes on record as pledging itself to do all within its power to further the war effort of the Dominion of Canada," the secretary be instructed to write to the Minister of National Defense

recommending that his Department establish libraries in all barracks and stations of the Canadian Navy, Army and Air Force throughout the Dominion and offering the services of the trained librarians in this Province in advising, organizing, maintaining and assisting in every way possible towards this end.

It was resolved that following up previous communications on the status of librarians in the Province, the Vice President be instructed to write to the Premier stressing the need for keeping up educational standards during the war and the necessity of preparing for constructive peace through the maintainance of these standards, stating that unless people are encouraged to train and become engaged in professional work these standards cannot be ensured.

It was decided after a lengthy discussion of the Canadian Library Council that while there was a great deal in the report of the committee appointed at New Westminster to recommend it to the Executive, that it was not entirely satisfactory and that the individual members of the executive should examine the report and make such suggestions and amendments as they thought advisable and forward these to the President who would incorporate them in one report.

The following have been appointed chairmen of the standing committees:

Government documents	-	Mrs. C.R. McNamee
Legislation	-	Mr. C.K. Morison
Membership	-	Miss Eleanor Mercer
Provincial relations	-	Dr. W.K. Lamb
Publicity	-	Miss Mary Harvey
Bulletin	-	Miss Margaret Creelman
Employment	-	Mrs. Ruth Goodhall
Unemployment Insurance	-	Miss Julia Stockett

An executive meeting was held in the Georgia Hotel, Vancouver, on August 14th. Mr. John Lort's resignation from the post of Secretary of the Association was read and accepted. After some discussion it was decided to split the original motion of the Canadian Library Committee in two parts and incorporate them in separate letters to Mr. Sanderson. The first to state only that at the annual convention in New Westminster May 18th, 1942, the B.C.L.A. went on record as approving in principle the proposed constitution of the Canadian Library Council as submitted. The second to point out the unanimous feeling of the B.C.L.A. that certain changes should be made in the proposed constitution to ensure ideal organization. Should a reply be received from Mr. Sanderson stating that our resolution was not acceptable at Ottawa, then it was decided to call a special meeting in Vancouver.

As Miss Bessie Greenwood had declined to accept the post of Editor of the Bulletin for another term it was decided to ask her to suggest a successor. It was decided to write Mr. Morison and request that he and the Legislative Committee take whatever steps they think advisable re the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

LIBRARIES IN ALASKA

A trip of over 5000 miles to inspect army post and navy base libraries in Alaska was completed by Mr. E.S. Robinson in August and September. This was done at the request of the Joint Army and Navy Committee on Welfare and Recreation of Washington, D.C., and was financed by the Carnegie Corporation. Mr. Robinson was requested to enquire as to the possibility of serving the armed forces through civilian libraries and to determine the adequacy of present library service in the posts and bases.

Ten post and base libraries were visited in both lower and upper Alaska and seven public libraries as well as the public libraries of Prince Rupert, B. C., and Whitehorse, Y.T.

Considering physical difficulties of transportation, climate and poor communications, the library service to the troops was all that could be expected. It is but a matter of months since most of the forces have moved into the Territory and complete library service at this point was an impossibility. At the time of visiting, V.B.C. books were being used almost entirely although there were some technical books in use and many fine magazines were being received.

The library department of the army had on order comparatively large libraries which should reach their destination before the winter sets in. One fine navy library was seen but on the whole more books, more personnel and better housing facilities were needed.

Public libraries with the exception of Juneau are all on a rental or subscription basis. Some fine fiction collections were seen although they were not modern. This type of book represented 85% of the collections while reference books, non-fiction and juveniles were for the most part antiquated or non-existent. The trend is toward free municipal libraries and Fairbanks had just taken over the library on a civic basis but still charged a fee plus 10 cents per week for new books. A trained librarian had been appointed and the building was being remodelled while the book collection was completely overhauled. This promises to be one of the best libraries in Alaska if the City continues its support.

Need of territorial support through proper legislation, setting up a Commission, financial support, trained personnel and new buildings are all evident in Alaska where pioneer days are rapidly fading before the avalanche of military activity and construction of new roads. The next decade will see the transformation completed and the 'last frontier' gone from America unless the Northwest Territories come into the picture.

- E.S.R.

WAR SERVICE LIBRARIES

Miss M. C. Holmes, Secretary of the War Services Library of Vancouver Island, reports that "The War Services Library of Vancouver Island, after three moves in as many months, has at last, we hope, found a permanent office at Room 12, Metropolitan Bldg., Courtney St., Victoria. From this office there have been circulated since July 1st 2,325 books to 21 stations of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Merchant Marine.

As in the case with the Vancouver War Services, the books are mainly supplied by the I.O.D.E. with such supplemental collections as come our way. Miss Mercer of David Spencer's Book Shop has placed a basket for gifts of books, which are turned over to the War Services Library every two weeks. This has proved to be quite a good source of supply.

The War Services Library has also placed a small collection of 100 books on each new ship built in Victoria."

Miss Viola Johnston, in charge of the War Services Library at Vancouver, reports that "work in the I.O.D.E. War Service Library is progressing in a fairly satisfactory manner. For a time during the spring and early summer we were severely hampered by the lack of books, and our requests for libraries far exceeded the number of books at our disposal. However, during the last few weeks the books have been coming in nicely, and the work has gained considerable momentum.

Since the beginning of January, we have sent out a total of 4,426 books to 27 different units. The Libraries varied in size from 50 to 300 volumes. Also, several parcels of uncatalogued Penquins, small editions, etc., have been sent to isolated locations.

The quality of the books has improved greatly in the last few months, and we are now able to supply the Armed Services with a fair amount of non-fiction and good fiction, as well as the ever-popular westerns and murder mysteries."

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CENTRE

Miss C.J. Kelly, of the University of Washington, Library, photographed the card catalogues of libraries in B.C. during the months of August and September. While in Vancouver Miss Kelly was assisted by Miss Laura Mills. The number of cards (chiefly main entries) photographed were: Vancouver Public Library - 51,246; The Library of the University of British Columbia - 90,714; the Provincial Library and the Provincial Archives - 50,000.

UNIVERSITY OF B. C. LIBRARY

The Library staff has had a busy and disturbed summer, as it was found necessary to make a major rearrangement of the books in the stackroom. Wooden shelving to supplement the steel stacks was built on two decks in 1940, and the other two decks were shelved similarly this year. At the same time the library took steps to give the best protection the building can afford against bombing to some of its more valuable books and serials. Additional shelving was crammed into the vault, and when it was filled to overflowing (with books three-deep on many of the shelves), two smaller vaults were built under the main staircases, in the basement. Inevitably, many of the volumes thus tucked away will be required by research workers during the year, and the work of digging them out is not going to add to the peace and quiet of existence "for the duration".

NELSON MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

WANTED: A librarian for the Nelson Municipal Library. A successor to Miss Margaret Hincks, who has accepted a position in Victoria, has not yet been found. All applications should be sent to Mr. F.L. Irwin, City Hall, Nelson, B.C. Miss Hincks writes that although business in Nelson is for the time being considerably depressed, owing to closure of so many mines and departure of so many people elsewhere since the war, the library is a sound one of some 7,000 volumes and the district on the balancing edge of augmented library service. The work provides valuable and interesting experience and the Library Board is extremely co-operative.

VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Miss Margaret Clay, Librarian of the Victoria Public Library, and Miss Hazel King, Children's Librarian, attended the P.N .L.A. Convention in Seattle in August. Nine members of the staff are taking the first-aid course sponsored by the City for those of its employees who are members of the A.R.P.

PERSONAL NOTES

Archbold: Miss Dagmar Archbold has been appointed to the staff of the Victoria Public Library. Miss Archbold was at one time in the Children's Department of the Toronto Public Library.

Armstrong: Miss Kathleen Armstrong, formerly a member of the Vancouver Public Library, has joined the R.C.A.F., W.D., and is doing extensive travelling. During the past two months she has visited Ottawa, Halifax and Florida.

Bolster: Mr. Arthur Bolster is on leave of absence from the Vancouver Public Library, having joined the Canadian Army. He is at present in training in Vancouver.

Forbes: Mr. Alex Forbes, a member of the staff of the Vancouver Public Library, is now a Lieutenant in the Navy.

Goodall: Mrs. Ruth Goodall, who for the last seven months has been Children's Librarian on the headquarters staff, Abbotsford, has been transferred to the Chilliwack Branch of the Library, replacing as custodian, Mrs. Dorothy Gray, who left to be married.

Halstead: Mr. Herbert Halstead, a member of the staff of the Vancouver Public Library, has left to take a three-year course at the Multnomah School of the Bible, Portland, Oregon.

Hanna: Miss Carol Hanna, of the Science and Industry Division of the Vancouver Public Library, is leaving at the end of October to be married to Mr. Frank Toshach of Vancouver.

Harris: Mrs. Harold Harris, the former Beth Collis of the Victoria Public Library, is interned in Manila, P.I.

Hincks: Miss Margaret Hincks, for ten years librarian of the Nelson Municipal Library, has resigned to take charge of the Travelling Library Division, Victoria, B.C.

Hodges: Miss Hope Hodges has resigned as Extension Librarian on the staff of the Public Library Commission, to take up war work in Ottawa where she is now in charge of the Library of the Tank Division, Inspection Board of the United Kingdom of Canada. Miss Hodges is succeeded by Miss Jean Garratt, who has been in charge of the Travelling Library Division for the past year.

Ireland: Mr. W.E. Ireland, Provincial Archivist, is on leave of absence for the duration, having joined the R.C.A.F. The latest word is that he is stationed at the Edmonton Training Wing, and finding life interesting, even if at times hectic.

Jarvis: Miss Amy Jarvis, for twenty years a member of the Circulation Department, Vancouver Public Library, retired at the end of June. Miss Jarvis was formerly the head of the Circulation Department, Calgary Public Library.

Laing: Miss Muriel Laing has been appointed as assistant in the Reference Department of the Victoria Public Library to succeed Mrs. Pearson. She has been on the part-time staff for some months.

Lort: Mr. John C. Lort is on leave of absence from the Provincial Library having joined the Canadian Army. The latest word is that he is in training near Calgary.

McClory: Miss Margaret McClory has resigned from the Boys' & Girls' Department of the Vancouver Public Library to study Education at the University of British Columbia.

McKay: Miss Kathleen McKay of the Boys' & Girls' Department of the Vancouver Public Library is attending the Library School of the University of Toronto.

Madeley: Miss Elizabeth Madeley of the Vancouver Public Library has received word that her sister, Mrs. George Dodds (Frances Madeley) is well and interned in Hong Kong. Mrs. Dodds was formerly on the staff of the Victoria Public Library.

Mills: Miss Laura Mills has resigned from the Circulation Department of the Vancouver Public Library to attend the University of British Columbia.

Mostar: Mr. Roman Mostar, who for the past two years has been first assistant and cataloger of the Fraser Valley Union Library, has resigned to enlist in the R.C.A.F. Mr. Mostar is now taking a R.C.A.F. wireless course at the Technical School in Vancouver.

Pearson A daughter, Gillian Anne, was born on September 15 to Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Pearson. Mrs. Pearson (Janet Owen) was formerly in the Reference Department of the Victoria Public Library.

Pike: Miss Isabelle Pike has been appointed to the staff of the Victoria Public Library. She has been on the part-time staff for some months.

Stewart: Miss Edith Stewart, who has been Extension Librarian at the University of British Columbia since July 1941, resigned at the end of August to accept a position in Crofton House School.

Wilson: Miss Roberta Wilson, a recent graduate of the University of Toronto Library School, has been appointed Children's Librarian of the Fraser Valley Union Library.

Woodford: Miss Doreen Woodford, who has held the position of Accession Clerk since 1939, has been appointed Extension Librarian of the University of British Columbia. Miss Woodford has been succeeded by Miss Margaret Campbell, a newcomer to the Library's staff.